

REMARKS

This Amendment, submitted in response to the Office Action dated July 22, 2004, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 11 and 14-18 are pending in the present application. Claims 4 and 16 have been allowed. Claims 3, 5-10, 12 and 13 have been withdrawn.

I Claim Objections

Claim 1 has been objected to for informalities. Applicant has amended claim 1 as suggested by the Examiner. Consequently, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to claim 1 be withdrawn.

II. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 11, 14, 15, 17 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakuma (US SIR H1201) in view of Hosoi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,880,987) and Verbeke et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,519,229). Applicant submits the following in traversal of the rejection.

Claim 1

Claim 1 recites “wherein a projecting rejection is formed only at one corner area, which is among four corner areas of the radiation image storage panel, or in the vicinity of each of the

two corner areas.” The Examiner asserts (Response to Arguments) that Sakuma states in col. 6, lines 40-42, that “a local film portion at a peripheral location of the film which has a local film contour being distinct from other portions of the film.” Therefore, the Examiner reasons that it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill at the time of the invention to provide a projecting region as the distinct local contour of Sakuma.

However, merely because Sakuma indicates that a peripheral location of a film has a film contour distinct from other portions of the film, does not teach or suggest that the contour distinct from the other portions be a projecting rejection. For example, in Sakuma Fig. 3, film 3 has a step shaped notch on the left edge of the film, film 5 has semicircular notch at the left edge of the film and film 7 has a triangular shaped notch at the left edge of the film. There is no indication in Sakuma of a projecting region as recited in claim 1.

The Examiner’s reasoning is clearly a result of impermissible hindsight upon viewing the Applicant’s invention since there is absolutely no indication of a projecting region in Sakuma.

Moreover, the Examiner states, on page 4 of the Office Action, that Sakuma lacks an explicit description that the distinct local contour is a projecting region, a right angle (claim 14), or a different radius (claim 15), however, storage panels are well known in the art. In particular, the Examiner reasons that in Sakuma, when a shaped radiation image panel is used within a correspondingly shaped X-ray photography cassette, the front side of the radiation imaging panel can be positioned properly within the X-ray photography cassette. Assuming that is the case, it is unclear how this aspect of Sakuma teaches the image storage panels of claims 1, 14 and 15. In

particular, there is no indication in Sakuma of an image storage panel having a projecting region, right angle and different radius as recited in claims 1, 14, and 15.

Further, the Examiner reasons that Verbecke teaches that it is known in the radiography art that a storage panel offers the advantages of re-usability and better image resolution at lower dosages for a patient and that typically the storage panel is used within conventional X-ray photography cassettes. However, again, it is unclear how this aspect of Verbecke teaches the elements of claims 1, 14, and 15.

Moreover, upon viewing the figures and specification of Sakuma, Hosoi or Verbecke, there is no teaching or suggestion of the corner areas as recited in claims 1, 14 and 15. Consequently, claims 1, 14 and 15 and their dependent claims should be deemed patentable.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4 and 16 have been allowed.

IV. Conclusion

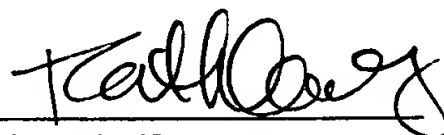
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
Appln. No.: 09/804,080

Attorney Docket No.: Q61195

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: December 21, 2004